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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203
801-538-5340

November 19, 1992

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Senior Reclamation Specialist *HWS*

RE: Site Inspection, Rio Algom, Lisbon Valley Mine, M/037/001, San Juan County, Utah

Date of Inspection: November 18, 1992
Time of Inspection: 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Conditions: Clear, sunny, cool
Participants: Bob Pattison, Paul Vancis, Frank Fosie, Rio Algom; Holland Shepherd, DOGM

The mine operator had requested that the Division make a site inspection of the mine and help to make some reclamation decisions for the operator regarding the area that is being reclaimed around the mine vent shaft. The vent shaft was sealed about two years ago. The area surrounding the vent shaft, which consisted of a large waste rock dump, was regraded this fall and is currently being topsoiled and reseeded (see attached species list).

The operator wanted the Division's concurrence on a seed mix and also requested the Division's concurrence on covering up the sealed vent shaft cover with two feet of topsoil; this was agreed to. Also, a small area at the toe of the waste dump which still remains at angle of repose, but is only 6 feet in height will be left, to avoid destroying some trees at the bottom of a shallow drainage. This was agreed to also.

The mine operator has nearly completed all of the remediation decommissioning and reclamation requirements imposed on Rio Algom by the NRC. The tailings ponds from the process facility have been covered and an ongoing evaporation mitigation procedure is taking place at the site. Contaminated groundwater is being pumped up from underground, pumped into evaporation ponds, the water evaporated off of the material and the sediments will be buried in place. This system will continue until the Division of Water Quality feels that the operator has mitigated the

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degradation of the groundwater problem associated with Rio Algom. This portion of the site is not within the jurisdiction of the Division at this time.

Within a month or two the operation will scale down to a staff of approximately two people, a skeleton maintenance crew. The mine manager, Bob Pattison, will be leaving, as well as several other management staff currently on board with Rio Algom.

Rio Algom intends to leave the process facilities intact until a decision is made regarding the future economic viability of these buildings. The mine operator may re-activate the process facilities or will in the long run, tear down all the buildings and reclaim everything that is part of the three acre mine site.

The mine shaft and vent shaft were sealed two years ago. Bob Pattison has requested that the Division find out what the surety amount is at this time and relay that information to him. Also, he has requested that the Division release a portion of that surety, based on the reclamation work on the mine site that has been reclaimed up to this point in time. The current surety is \$40,409.55. Mr. Pattison indicated that he would submit an updated surety estimate to the Division.

Mr. Pattison also requested that we furnish Rio Algom with a bundle of annual report forms so that they don't miss out on filing the annual reports in a timely fashion.

I anticipate that the office and warehouses will remain intact for several more years as the mine goes into a state of suspension. I have informed the operator about the requirement to reclaim the site after 10 years of suspension, unless Board approval is obtained to continue the suspension.

jb
Attachment
cc: Bob Pattison, Rio Algom
M037001



1037/001

RECEIVED OCT. 10 1992

CC: TERRY W.
BILL F.
FRANK F.

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Moab District

Grand Resource Area

885 South Sand Flats Road

Moab, Utah 84532

4100
(UT-068)

Terry Warner
c/o Rio Algom Mining Corporation
La Sal Route
Moab, Utah 84532

Dear Mr. Warner:

Concerning the seed list for the mine tailing reclamation it is our recommendation that the seed list be altered as follows:

Stipulations From The Environmental Assessment (UT-068-89-112)

<u>Species</u>	<u>Rate</u> <u>Lbs/Acre</u>
Beardless bluebunch	2
Crested wheatgrass (Hycrest)	2
Indian ricegrass	2
Blue grama	1
Four-wing saltbush	3
Mexican cliffrose	1
Western wheatgrass	3
Lear milkvitch	2

New recommended list

<u>Species</u>	<u>Rate</u> <u>Lbs/Acre</u>
Crested wheatgrass	3
Indian ricegrass	3
Fourwing saltbush	3
Mexican cliffrose	1
Western wheatgrass	3
Alfalfa	2
Yellow sweet clover	1

Also, the above seeding rates are for broadcast seeding. If drill seeding is used, the seeding rate may be divided by two.

We are recommending the above change because we understand that you are having difficulty finding a seed source for some of the species in the original list and we have new information which indicates that some of the species in the original list will not grow well in the area in which you are doing the reclamation.

Sincerely,

Area Manager